

By: King of Taylor

H.B. No. 3658

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the development and administration of a parent orientation and education pilot program for recipients of subsidized child-care services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 4, Labor Code, is amended by adding Chapter 316 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 316. PARENT ORIENTATION AND EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM

Sec. 316.001. PARENT ORIENTATION AND EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall develop and implement a pilot program to offer parent orientation and other parent education programs to parents receiving subsidized child-care services through a local workforce development board.

(b) The commission shall select one local workforce development board located in a rural area and one local workforce development board located in an urban area to participate in the pilot program.

(c) Not later than December 1, 2016, a participating local workforce development board shall develop a curriculum, including video programming, for a parent orientation program to be offered by the local workforce development board to parents initially receiving or waiting to receive subsidized child-care services. Not later than December 1, 2016, the participating local workforce development board shall also develop curricula for additional

1 parent education programs for parents receiving subsidized  
2 child-care services to supplement parent orientation.

3 (d) A participating local workforce development board shall  
4 include in the curriculum for each program information for parents  
5 relating to:

6 (1) early brain development;

7 (2) child growth and development;

8 (3) the importance of continuity of child care; and

9 (4) strategies for:

10 (A) employing positive child guidance;

11 (B) selecting a quality child-care program; and

12 (C) supporting a child's educational success.

13 Sec. 316.002. PARENT PARTICIPATION IN PARENT ORIENTATION.

14 (a) A participating local workforce development board shall offer  
15 parent orientation to a parent who is eligible to receive  
16 subsidized child-care services through the board. A board may not  
17 require a parent to participate in the orientation.

18 (b) A participating local workforce development board shall  
19 ensure that a parent who participates in the parent orientation  
20 receives priority for child-care services within the parent's  
21 priority group, as established by the commission, over those  
22 parents within the priority group who do not participate in the  
23 orientation.

24 (c) Each participating local workforce development board  
25 shall establish a deadline by which a parent who applies for  
26 subsidized child-care services must complete the parent  
27 orientation in order to receive the benefit of participation

1 described in Subsection (b).

2 Sec. 316.003. PARENT ORIENTATION REQUIREMENTS. (a) A  
3 participating local workforce development board shall use the  
4 curriculum developed by that board under Section 316.001 as the  
5 content of parent orientation.

6 (b) A participating local workforce development board shall  
7 offer parent orientation at least three times a month.

8 (c) A participating local workforce development board  
9 member possessing qualifications described by Section 2308.256(g),  
10 Government Code, shall act as the instructor for parent  
11 orientation.

12 (d) A parent orientation session must:

13 (1) include both group discussion and video  
14 programming; and

15 (2) be at least 1-1/2 hours but not more than 3 hours  
16 in duration.

17 (e) A participating local workforce development board shall  
18 provide parent orientation in English and in a second language  
19 appropriate to the demographic makeup of the community served.

20 (f) A participating local workforce development board may  
21 conduct parent orientation at a physical location where the board  
22 provides services or at a location in the community that is  
23 accessible to participants in the orientation. The board shall  
24 provide the option to participate in parent orientation by video  
25 conference through the Internet.

26 Sec. 316.004. ADDITIONAL PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS. (a)

27 In addition to parent orientation, a participating local workforce

1 development board shall offer parent education programs using the  
2 curricula developed by that board under Section 316.001 to a parent  
3 receiving subsidized child-care services through the board. A  
4 board may not require a parent to participate in a parent education  
5 program.

6 (b) A participating local workforce development board may  
7 offer incentives to encourage participation in the parent education  
8 programs.

9 (c) A participating local workforce development board shall  
10 offer the parent education programs in the languages, locations,  
11 and manner described by Sections 316.003(e) and (f).

12 Sec. 316.005. PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM IN LIEU OF  
13 TERMINATION. (a) Subject to Subsection (b), a parent receiving  
14 subsidized child-care services through a participating local  
15 workforce development board who becomes ineligible for subsidized  
16 child-care services because of a child's excessive absences or  
17 because the parent violated the responsibility agreement required  
18 by Section 31.0031, Human Resources Code, may retain eligibility  
19 for child-care services if the parent:

20 (1) enrolls in a parent education program offered by a  
21 local workforce development board under Section 316.004 not later  
22 than the 30th day after the date the board sends notice of  
23 ineligibility to the parent;

24 (2) successfully completes the parent education  
25 program within the time designated by board policy; and

26 (3) otherwise cures the parent's ineligibility  
27 according to board policy.

1       (b) A parent may retain eligibility for child-care services  
2 by completing a parent education program as provided by this  
3 section after only the first time the parent becomes ineligible for  
4 a reason under Subsection (a).

5       (c) A participating local workforce development board shall  
6 adopt policies to administer this section, including a policy that:

7           (1) specifies the manner in which a parent proves  
8 successful completion of a parent education program under this  
9 section; and

10           (2) ensures that a parent described under Subsection  
11 (a) will continue to receive child-care services while the parent  
12 is completing the parent education program.

13       Sec. 316.006. EVALUATION AND REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. (a)  
14 The commission shall develop a process for evaluating the  
15 effectiveness of the parent orientation and education programs and  
16 determine performance measures for the evaluation process not later  
17 than January 1, 2018.

18       (b) The evaluation process under this section must:

19           (1) provide for the collection of feedback from  
20 parents who participated in the parent orientation and education  
21 programs; and

22           (2) determine whether the parent orientation and  
23 education programs should be continued, modified, or expanded for  
24 statewide implementation.

25       (c) The commission shall issue a report to the legislature  
26 regarding the commission's findings under this section and  
27 recommendations regarding the parent orientation and education

1 programs.

2 Sec. 316.007. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires January 15,  
3 2019.

4 SECTION 2. The Texas Workforce Commission is required to  
5 perform the evaluation and issue the report as required under  
6 Section 316.006, Labor Code, as added by this Act, not later than  
7 January 15, 2019.

8 SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act  
9 a state agency determines that authorization from a federal agency  
10 is necessary for implementation of that provision, the agency  
11 affected by the provision shall request the authorization and may  
12 delay implementing that provision until the authorization is  
13 granted.

14 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.